

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25 and 27 are now present in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Amendments have been made to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 11-13, 16, 20, 21, 22 and 25, and claims 5, 8, 14, 17, 23 and 26 have been canceled. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 13-17, 19, 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Majumdar et al. (US 5,581,083). Claims 2, 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Majumdar et al. in view of Higgins et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements in a contact pin for contacting a terminal of an electronic device to supply the electronic device with a signal, the contact pin including a first conductive layer composed of a first conductive material and a second conductive layer composed of a second conductive material with a lower hardness than the first conductive material. The first conductive layer is formed at the outside from the second conductive layer, the contact pin has a truncated cone shape which has a first flat surface at the front end and a first taper portion which tapers toward the first flat surface, the first flat surface is orthogonal to the axis of the contact pin and the second conductive layer is exposed at the first flat surface.

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Majumdar et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims now recites that the contact pin has a first flat surface at the front end and a first taper portion which tapers toward the first flat surface, the first flat surface orthogonal to the axis of the contact pin and the second conductive layer exposed at the first flat surface. Such arrangement can be seen in the drawings, such as figures 7-10. In contrast, the flat surface of the tip 14 of Majumdar et al. is not orthogonal to the axis of the probe 10, in any of the embodiments.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Majumdar et al., for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25 and 27, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25 and 27 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 which is allowable for the reasons set forth above, and therefore claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, 25 and 27 are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

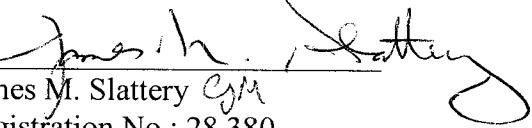
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone James T. Eller, Jr., Registration No. 39,538, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 11, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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